



HOBOTALES

Vol. 8, No. 2

The Newsletter of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc.

April/May 1999

"A NEAT AND NIFTY NECKLACE"

By Bill Fivaz



I purchased this rather unusual piece several years ago and gave it to my wife Marilyn ("Cookie") as it somewhat resembled pictures of her Mom when she was young. She found it while going through her jewelry box a couple weeks ago and I asked if I may borrow it back to do a short article on it.

As you can see, it has a (*sideways*) loop at the top, suitable for wearing on a necklace. The lady subject has the

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A Message from the Prez...

With this issue we welcome a new editor for BO TALES, Roman Luzecky, a long-time member from New Jersey. Roman volunteered his services as a result of my plea for help in this area after our regular editor, Gail Baker Kraljevich, reluctantly had to step down after accepting the position of Director of Education at the ANA.

Roman brings with him experience in an editor's responsibility, as he has been the publisher of the local Chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Bulletin for some time. We welcome him and look forward to seeing a continued outstanding product for OHNS members. Please read Roman's introductory article in this issue and remember that his toughest job will be to get material for each issue. Many members have started submitting material for BO TALES, and we thank them. Please take a minute to welcome Roman and "make his day" by sending something for the next issue, even if it's just a "filler". He may be reached at:

Roman Luzecky
5 Melody Lane
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-1526

We will start accepting coins for the next OHNS auction at the 2000 FUN convention immediately. Submissions must be certified and must be in my hands by **September 30, 1999**. The January 1999 auction was the best yet, and while some records were set, there were still some real bargains. The sooner I receive your coins the easier it is for me to put everything together, so please try not wait until the last minute to send them to me. Don't forget that we are now accepting modern hobo nickels as well as carvings on foreign coins, potty coins, etc., but each must have certification papers to qualify.

I want to mention again that if any member has any ideas on how to make OHNS an even better organization, please let me know. Don't hesitate to do so in fear that you'll be put in charge of following through on the idea(s)... we have many dedicated officers that will do this. Our objectives are to (1) increase membership, (2) try to develop ways to flush out those thousands of original hobo nickels that are still in Aunt Nellie's dresser drawer, Gramma's jewelry case and in that old trunk in the attic and (3) make OHNS one of the best specialty clubs in numismatics. These are three pretty ambitious objectives, but with **your** input, all three are within reach.

The next OHNS Board meeting will be held at the ANA Summer Seminar in July in Colorado Springs, so let your officers know your comments on the club, both positive and negative. Thanks.

Again... welcome, Roman!

Bill "Zemo" Fivaz

Introduction

I would like to thank our prez, Bill Fivaz, for providing me the opportunity to prepare *Bo Tales* for publication. Gail Kraljevich, the past regular editor, has done a tremendous job producing an informative and professional publication. It will be difficult to maintain the high standard that Gail has set, but both Gail and Bill promised to assist me as necessary. Stanton Publishing, who have done an outstanding job printing *Bo Tales*, will continue to do so.

As a relatively new member to the OHNS, I have used *Bo Tales* as a supplemental learning tool to expand my knowledge of Hobo nickels. As with any hobby, the organization is only as good as it's members. There are many of you with the knowledge, an interesting story, photo/postcard, or coin related to hoboos. The entire membership can benefit from your experience. I need you to continue to submit articles as you have in the past. Please take some time and share your knowledge with all of us and submit an article for publication. If at all possible, please send articles via computer disk or via the Internet. This saves the time of having to retype the article and minimizes typing errors.

Items for publication should be sent to:

Roman Luzecky
5 Melody Lane
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-1526
Internet: RLuzecky@aol.com

**Anyone sending registered,
insured or certified packages to
Gail Baker
please send them to:**

**Gail Baker
ANA
818 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

Here's an interesting hobo nickel...

Courtesy of Ken Bressett (hubby of OHNS member Bert), and member Ron Landis....

Ken came across a huge "Buffalo Nickel" some time ago, and sent it to Ron for some of his creative handiwork. Ron sent it back with the following note:

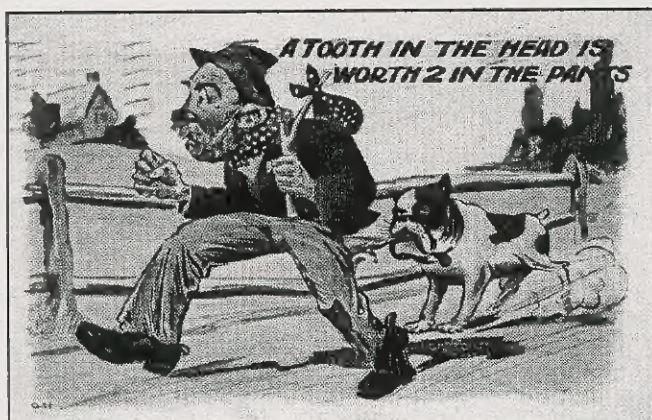
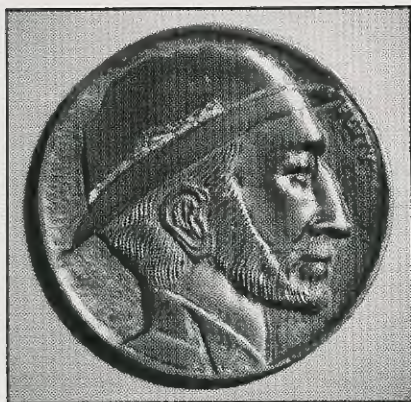
"I was searching around the other day, and ran into your huge 'nickel'. I went ahead and carved it like a gigantic hobo nickel, with the traditional "bearded man with hat" theme. I used a four-inch Makita grinder to do the rough out, and then went to my pneumatic engraving machine (Gravermeister) to plow out the details.

"This has to be the world's largest



"hobo nickel". A gargantuan piece. It could almost be used as a spare boxcar wheel. I would guess it's even bigger than the one in the National Hobo Museum in Britt, Iowa. It is signed and numbered (#131), and the only one dated 1996 so far. That starts this years carvings off in a reeealy big way!"

Thanks, Ken and Ron, for sharing this unique piece with us! Incidentally, on the obverse is Bert Bressett's nickname ("Berty"), and the reverse indicates where the large host piece came from... "Calif. State Numismatic Assn., Ontario".



A TOOTH IN THE HEAD IS WORTH 2 IN THE PANTS

Postmark Colorado Springs Aug. 14, 1908

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome the following new members:

NAME	State	Number
Kathryn Mihalko	CO	#532
<i>Sponsor: Bill Fivaz</i>		
Bob Williams	NC	#531
<i>Sponsor: Bill Fivaz</i>		
M. Riccone	NJ	#530
<i>Sponsor: Virg Marshall</i>		
Art Carte	CA	#529
<i>Sponsor: Bill Fivaz</i>		
Ron McCord	IL	#528
<i>Sponsor:</i>		
Archie Taylor, II	FL	#527
<i>Sponsor: Archie Taylor</i>		
Noel Hoglund	FL	#526

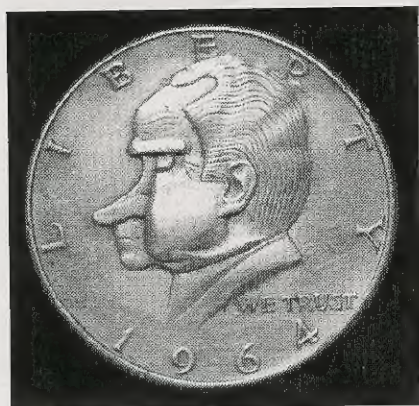
Please send your membership renewal dues now. 85 members will receive their final dues notice in May. This will be their LAST issue of Bo Tales. That drops our active member number to 281!

.....

The 2 YN's that OHNS is helping to send to the ANA Summer Seminar are: Luke Coston and Cameron Keifer. They should be congratulated.

"I AM NOT A CROOK!"

By "Zemo" Fivaz



One of the general rules of thumb in collecting hobo nickels is: If the subject is something other than the typical bearded man wearing a derby, and if the workmanship is relatively decent, the piece is usually more desirable than one of the same quality of the afore-mentioned carving. In other words, a hobo nickel of a woman, a hatless man, a clown or an Indian is scarcer and in more demand than the normal 90% of what can be found.

The same thing is true when the carving is found on a coin other than a (Buffalo) Nickel. The two outstanding carvings shown here, each on a silver 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar, are rather interesting pieces that fall into this category.

The first is a great caricature of "Tricky Dick", obviously carved by a very talented artist. His attention to detail in the jowls, ski nose, hair, eyebrow and expression are incredibly accurate. The reverse of this coin (not shown) has been shaven clean, and has carved on it

a single extended digit with Nixon's famous "Let Me Make This Perfectly Clear" inscribed around the rim.

The other coin, undoubtedly by the same artist and also on a 1964 Half, shows Nixon's running mate, Spiro Agnew, with his typical squint-eyed expression. The reverse of this piece is the normal JFK reverse.

I thought you might enjoy these two very nicely carved half dollars, both of which are certainly a bit different from the "hobo nickels" we usually see.



Q. *Why was the
wayward locomotive
so easily controlled by
a switch?*

A. *Because it had
a tender behind.*

HELP WANTED

Sure hope you read the last issue of *BO TALES* reviewing all of the recent happenings in the Original Hobo Nickel Society and before that the articles in *Numismatic News*, *Coin World* and in the *Numismatist* describing 'Greenie' Green's talk, the auction, the balmy 70° weather, 'Cookie's Mulligan Stew and the other wonderful events of this year's FUN convention.

Some of those who have worked so hard to make the Original Hobo Nickel Society such a great club have recently taken on new responsibilities and want to pass the torch. The 'bad' news is that the club will loose some very good officers and board members. The 'good' news is, that the people who replace them will make this club even greater. You could be one of those people. Being an officer of OHNS doesn't take much time, the retiring officers and board members will be very available to help and the job can be fun and rewarding. Elections are THIS year and NOW is the time to think about helping out. There are several openings for both officers and board members.

Got Questions??? Contact any of the current officers: Bill, Ray, Gail or Dallas. Volunteer, and your enjoyment of the club and Hobo Nickel collecting in general will increase 10 fold. Contact **Ray Flanigan** at PO Box 92 Lincoln Park, NJ 07035-0092 or at coinguy@erols.com or our Secretary/ membership chairperson Gail Kraljevich c/o ANA 818 N. Cascade Ave. Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279 or at anaedu@money.org.

Bill Fivaz says that fully intends to keep the auctions going, so we have our auctioneer. Job descriptions for each of the offices are not available. The job

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QUESTIONS FROM OHNS MEMBERS

By Del (Slickrock) Romines

In the recent past one member directed a list of his questions to Bill Fivaz, President of OHNS. Apparently the questions were directed toward me, but not to me. Bill was kind enough to copy the questions, but not the letter since he (Bill) felt these were questions which other members would also like to know the answers. Before any of the questions are answered, I would like to make a very strong statement. Probably as many as 85-90% of most questions can be answered by reading both the first and second hobo nickel books. Reading the books does not mean just to look at the pictures, it means to read every word from the front of the cover to the very last word in both books. The other 10-15% of the information was erroneously left out of the books, especially the first book. Prior to the first book being printed, articles were printed in COIN WORLD. It was thought that those bits of information were also put into the hobo book number one. An explanation was published in BO TALES December 1997. There have been other articles that appeared in various other publications. The best and most informative articles have been printed in Coin World starting around 1979 or 1980. Specific dates can not be given for those printings, but if you are in good standing with Coin World, you may be able to get them to run a check on all hobo nickel articles and have them send you the tear sheets.

Following are the questions and the answers:

QUESTION: 1 (a) During what years did Bo create his cameo carvings, (b)

and during that period did he have superior tools with which to work, compared to his earlier years, (c) and why were these tools not used again after his hand injury/relearning phase?

ANSWER: 1 (a) See pages 25 and 27 in the second hobo nickel book (HBN 2), (b) See pages 14-18 in HBN 2 and speculate, (c) See page 18 in HBN 2 and speculate.

QUESTION: 2 (a) Is there any "in-between" art (carvings), where Bo demonstrates the progression from his early style of field dressing and carving toward the magnificent cameo period? (b) Also, how about carvings from the post-cameo period (1952) to 1957 when he injured his hand?

ANSWER: 2 (a) See pages 14-18, 22-23, and 27 in HBN 2. (b) This portion of the question is not clear, and a speculative positive answer will not be given, but page viii in HBN 2 may be the answer the individual was looking for. I believe the individual may have wanted information on pre 1950-1957. If this is correct, there are numerous early carvings by Bo under different titles in HBN 2. This information can be obtained by reading HBN 2.

QUESTION: 3. Why aren't any of the of the Cameo pieces illustrated in Del's first book? I can't imagine not including at least a sample or two of his finest work.

ANSWER: 3. See and read page viii in HBN 2.

QUESTION: 4 (a) Did Del ever watch Bo carve? (b) Does he remember what the very last pieces of artwork Bo did looked like before he disappeared?

ANSWER: 4(a) Bo was never observed carving a coin, but during the only meeting with Bo, Bo was busy for a short while punching a coin in the poorly lit lean-to shelter or shanny in southern Indiana. (b) See page 20 in HBN 2, and Bill Fivaz owns the last coin which Bo was working on at the time of his disappearance.

QUESTION: 5 (a) Carvings by Bert seem very rare. How many, compared to those of Bo, do you feel exist? (b) With Bert such a good teacher, one would think his works would show up more often.

ANSWER: 5 (a) Many Bert and Bo carvings are so much alike that sometimes it is very hard to determine which individual carved which coin. The authenticators many times can not make a positive determination, and they then must make a decision based on what little has been possibly proven for each artist. It is virtually impossible to make an accurate estimate on the number of Bert coins which are still out there some place.

Feeble attempts were made by me to make some estimations of the number of Bo's carvings, but those estimates were not intended to be the law. Estimates on any one artist's work are only GUESSTIMATIONS, and not necessarily valid. These are the areas where col-

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Hobo Chops Recipe

Submitted by Patricia Thompson

I was looking through some of my grandmother's (Flossie Ware) church cookbooks. I found this recipe from her church, Tignall, GA Baptist. It is for "Hobo Chops". For each serving, wrap in a square of foil:

1 Pork Chop
1/2 Potato thinly sliced
1 slice onion
Several slices of carrots.
Add salt and pepper
and a bit of butter.

Place on grill
until tender or
bake @ 350° for
about 1 hour.
Enjoy!



Nifty Necklace...

continued from page 1

typical hairstyle of the 1920s "Flapper Girls", and while it is not technically a cameo carving as we know it, it does offer somewhat of that effect by the artist's use of the radial lines all around the figure, extending to the rim. This totally carved piece has a restructured nose, eye and mouth, and above the eye we see an eyebrow.

All these features and the technique used to create them tell us that this carving was almost certainly one by George Washington "Bo" Hughes. This is the only time I recall seeing the radial lines used on one of his coins, but possibly they were used by "Bo" to suggest a "radiant personality or beauty" of this lady. Was it Monique? We don't know - it could be, or it could be someone else Bo had met.

In any event, it's fun to speculate on when this was made, of whom and why... we'll never know, but we can certainly conjure up some interesting scenarios to go with this lovely piece.

Help Wanted...

continued from page 4

is whatever you make it. The only exception is that the president is expected to wear funny hats at FUN. So if you're interested in being an officer of the club for next year please let Ray Flanigan know where your interests are and he will make sure your name gets on the ballot. If you're not quite sure what you'd like to do, but being an active member of the club sounds interesting to you, being on the board is an excellent way to start. You get a little more insight into the club and how it runs, and can contribute your ideas right away. While the club does not provide money for the funny hats the club does provide a very generous benefit for all candidates. Any campaign expenses you incur up to and including 25c are covered by the club at absolutely no expense to your loved ones. The Original Hobo Nickel Society is one of the greatest clubs in Numismatics today. With your help it could be even better. Contact Ray today, while you're still thinking about it and help lead this wonderful club into the 21st Century.

If you're not sure and would like to find out just a little bit more before committing - please call any one of the current officers or use their e-mail. Elections will be held in November with the inauguration blast held at FUN in January, 2000. This article is believed to be Y2K ready. To the extent possible, this notice constitutes a Year 2000 readiness disclosure under the Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act of 1998.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

VARAL
□ ○ □ □ □ □

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VOCAL
□ ○ □ □ □ □

GLEANT
□ ○ □ □ □ □

NEMDIP
□ ○ □ □ □ □

Ans: THEY

□ ○ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers)



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Y2K

Questions...

continued from page 5

lectors and members need to get involved.

Since most of the information has been received by "word of mouth," each piece of information must be weighed against any other information that has been received. If you will read all of the information in HBN #2 (especially page viii) you will see where various information has been blended instead of taking any one piece of information as total fact. Just for the record though, I feel certain there are many thousands of Bert, Bo, Peanut Ear, and many other artists' works still stashed away in many homes across this great nation. 5 (b) There are probably many of Bert's coins in collector's possessions right now, but they have just not been sorted out or proven. Many of the superior and above average carvings of the early years from about 1913 to about 1930, might well be by Bert. Without having positive markers, many of Bert's early carvings may never be identified. It is also highly recommended that all members of OHNS and other collectors read the CLOSING STATEMENT which follows page 107 in HBN #2, and try to do as the statement suggests.

QUESTION: 6. Have "Bo's" or "Bert's" been certified which came from "Grandpa's trinket drawer" or were found in some lot of coins and or tokens purchased by a dealer or collector from an older hoard?

ANSWER: 6. Yes. Read HBN #2 completely, and you will find various mentions of such coins that are shown in that book. Too many times people pass up valuable information to look at pretty pictures.

I am not trying to be totally critical of the questions that were asked, but the majority of the answers are in front of the reader's eyes. It is very important for you, the collectors, to try to gain additional information through individual search, research, and study, and not just reading or totally accepting others words. Read pages viii and ix in HBN 2.

Over the 18 years prior to the publishing of HBN 2, I had amassed considerable information that contained many clues for additional search and research. Much of this information was given to many of the collectors, and apparently none of the information was ever used. Contact was made with many of those that the information was given to, and feeble excuses were given why they didn't follow up the information.

There was information given out about a dealer in Florida who had sold many of "Bo's" works. I personally sent out letters to over 50 different dealers and collectors in the general area, and only one response was received with possible information. That information was then passed on to four different collectors in that area, and not one checked it out.

Other information was received about Bert selling coins at a flea market in the Asheville, NC area, possibly as late as the early 1950's. This information was sent to collectors in the general proximity of Asheville, and not one collector made any attempts to follow up the information.

Information was also received about the rails traveled by Bo and other hoboes in Northern Florida and Southern Georgia. This information was passed on to collectors in the general proximity of those areas, and once again, no

response. I could probably write several pages about the wasted study and research which has been done, but I believe you now have the drift. Too many collectors want someone else to do the work while they (the collector) reap the benefits.

We had considerable information in our computer, but over the past six to eight months we began having problems. In August of this year our computer went totally out. Some things that started appearing on the screen indicated that a virus apparently was in our computer, and was possibly the reason for the loss of all our material. Even though disks were used to save much of the information, we will not attempt to transfer that information to our new computer. The hard drive has been removed from the old computer, and another old computer is being used to try to transfer the information into. If it will transfer, printed information only will be taken for use, but no disks will be used to transfer information to other computers.

Computer users, BE ALERT. Just a matter of minutes before the computer went down, the screen started showing large numbers of bits being used. In a period of about two to three minutes, the support information showed that over 150,000,000,000 bits had been used, with the date and time of the usage (12 different entries) being (time) 00:00 and the date being 00, or the year 2000.

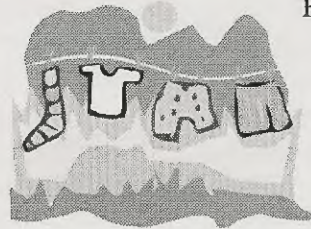
A Glossary of Hobo Terms Part I - (A through K)

(Compliments of Fran DeLorenzo - "The Hobo Minstrel")

Alkee - To get drunk.
 Alki - Alcohol, An Alcoholic.
 Alky - Alki
 Angel Food - A mission sermon.
 Antique - An old timer on the road.
 Balloon - A bindle.
 Banjo - A short handled shovel.
 Banner - Pack or carry the; Walk the streets all night.
 Batter - To beg.
 Batter privates - To beg from homes.
 Beanery - A restaurant.
 Beef - Complain






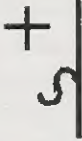

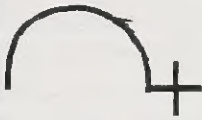




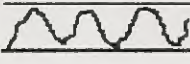
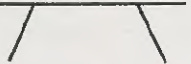



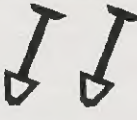

Benny - Overcoat
 Billy - A club or bat.
 Bindle - A roll of bedding and other possessions carried by a Hobo on the road.
 Bindle stiff - A Hobo who carries a bindle.
 Blackjack - A leather bag filled with lead shot.
 Blanket stiff - A west coast term for Bindle Stiff.
 Blinds - The platform outside the door of a car facing the coal car or engine



tender.
 Block scrapings - Meat begged from a butcher.
 Blowed-in -the-glass-stiff - The upper crust of the professional tramps.
 Blowing smoke - Boasting
 Boil up - Boil clothes to clean them and kill bugs.
 Bone polisher - Mean dog
 Boomer - A seasonal, temporary or migratory worker.
 Booze hoister - Heavy drinker
 Brakey; Brakeman - Shack

continued on page 7

HOBO SIGNS

 Worth robbing (Yeggs)	 Dangerous Neighborhood	 Woman	 Food for work	 Camp here	 Stop
 Owner Home	 Owner Out	 Telephone	 Bread	 Bad Water	 Sit Down Feed
 Police Officer Lives Here	 Can sleep in barn	 Help if sick	 Work Available	 I Ate	

Hobo Glossary...

continued from page 8

Bridge snake - Structural iron worker

Broad - A girl or woman.

Budge - Upper front pocket

Bull - Detective or any law officer

Bull cook - Camp flunky

Bull horrors - Obsessive fear of police.

Bumpers - The ledges above the coupling pins on railroad cars.

Buzz - To beg

Calaboose - Jail or prison

Calling in - Using another's campfire or camp area.

Cally - Police station. Short for Calaboose.

C. & A. pockets - Huge pockets on the inside of a coat. Named for the Chicago and Alton RR (the Carry-All).

Can - Jail. Improvised coffee pot.

Catch on the fly - Board a moving train.

Catting in - Calling in.

Canned heater - One who drinks cheap alky and water (sterno).

Carry the banner - Pack the banner. Checkerboard crew - Mixed crew of blacks and whites.

Chi - Chicago

Chronica - A habitual criminal tramp. A two or three time loser.

Chuck-a-dummy - To fake sickness or fainting in order to get sympathy or a handout.

Cinder dick - Railroad

lawman

Cinder grifter - Hobo

Clover kicker - Farmer

Con - Train conductor

Corndodger - Corn cake - baked or fried.

Cowcatcher - The plow like frame on the front of an engine.

Croaked Gumps - Killed chickens

Croaker - Doctor

Crowbar Hotel - Local jail -

Pokey

Crocus - Croaker

Crum - A louse

Crumb boss - Janitor or porter for the bunkhouse.

Crumbs - Lice

Crummy - Lousy. A caboose (in early days cabooses were often infected with lice).

Crushed the can - Broke out of jail.

Dago - An Italian.

Dago red - Cheap red wine

Deadhead - Empty car in back of the engine tender.

Dead one - A retired Hobo.

Death woods - Planks above the couplings of boxcars.

Deck - To board a train.

Deep-sea chef - Dishwasher

Dehorn - Denatured alcohol

Dicer - A fast freight.

Dick - Detective

Dimmer - Dime

Dingbat - The lowest type of tramp. A professional tramp or beggar.

Dinge - Negro tramp

Dip - Pickpocket

Ditch - To throw off a train. To dispose of something.

Dollar a day & Found - Wages, board and room.

Doozy - Great, grand, valuable.

Double-decked stock - A stock car built with two levels for hauling sheep.

Doughhead - Baker

Drag - A street. A slow freight.

Flag - To hail or halt a passer-by.

Flip - To board a moving

train.

Floater - Person discharged from police court. A hobo.

Flop - To sleep or a place to sleep.

Flop Joint - Cheap rooming place.

Fly mugs - Private police

Frisk - Search

Frisk a drag - Look for a good riding place on a freight.

Fusee - A warning device to place on the tracks.

Fuzzy tail - Person in a bad humor.

Galway - Priest

Gandy dancer - A section hand on the railroad.

Gas - Wood alcohol, doped cider, ether.

Gat - Hand gun

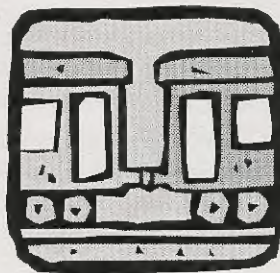
Gay cat -

Amateur or tender foot

Hobo.

Ghost story - Any fanciful tale.

continued on page 13

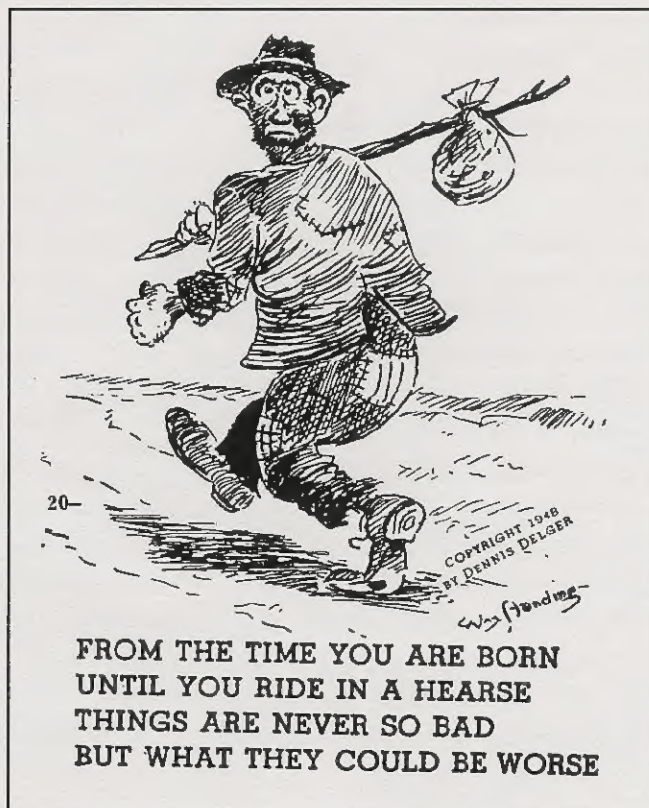


H OBO ODGEPODGE

by Stephen P. Alpert, OHNS LM-10

HOBO POSTCARDS

Many old postcards were issued depicting hoboes. Most are cartoon cards from about 1905 to 1915. The easiest way to obtain some of these hobo postcards, to accompany your hobo nickel collection, is to visit a postcard show. Ask the dealers there for postcards picturing hoboes, or check through their stock. Most dealers have a "comic" or "cartoon" or "humorous" section where you may find some hobo cards; if you do, they're usually priced from \$1.00 to \$5.00 each. You have to be careful to distinguish hoboes (look for a bindle stick or opened can on a string) from drunks, bums, and other derelicts.



The most desirable hobo postcards are old real photo cards showing one or more hoboes. But such cards are rare and usually priced very high by postcard dealers. The cartoon cards are common in comparison, and some postcard makers issued them in series or sets.

I've noticed that most hobo cartoon cards fall into one of several categories, which are listed below in order of decreasing desirability:

- 1) Hoboes with trains - picturing hoboes riding under, within, or on top of railway cars, or being booted off a train.
- 2) Hoboes walking on railroad tracks.
- 3) Hoboes encountering a woman - such as asking for a handout at a doorstep; or stealing a pie from a windowsill; or a woman with romantic intentions feeding a hobo.
- 4) Hoboes camping out or loafing in the countryside.
- 5) Hoboes being chased or bitten by a dog (the hobo is usually depicted jumping a fence) or stung by a bee.
- 6) Hoboes asking for a handout or begging for money.
- 7) Hoboes walking down a town street or looking in a store or restaurant window.

continued on page 11

Hobo Hodgepodge...

continued from page 10

**HOBO HOT SPRINGS,
CALIFORNIA**

Hobo Hot Springs, Calif., was probably the only community that began as a hobo camp, and grew large enough to have its own post office. Located in Kern County, 40 miles from Bakersfield, it is one of several hot springs in the area.

Now named Miracle Hot Springs, it was originally known in the late 19th century as Clear Creek Hot Springs or Compressor Hot Springs (a compressor provided air for underground miners in Havilah).

Construction of the Borel power plant nearby in 1901 led to a hobo camp with bath houses being established at the hot springs, and the name was changed to Hobo Hot

Springs. A hotel at the springs was built in 1927. Population figures I've found are 100 in 1930 and 18 in 1933.

The Hobo Hot Springs post office opened in 1932. The community's name and post office name was

changed to Miracle Hot Springs in 1947 (for the miraculous curing properties of the 119° water). The post office closed in 1957; the hotel burned down in 1975.

The area no longer has permanent inhabitants. Today, the U.S. Forest Service maintains

continued on page 12

*Additional postcards from
Bill Fivaz collection.*

**WHAT'S THE USE?**

Postmark Bridgeport, Conn
Oct. 30, 1906

**THINGS ARE COMING MY WAY**

Postmark Elk Mills, MD
26 Jun, 190?

Hobo Hodgepodge...

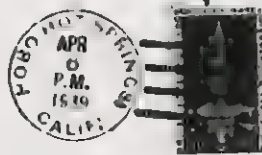
continued from page 11



THINGS ARE COMING MY WAY

Postmark Wauneta, Nebr

Aug 21, 1918



Mr. E. C. Raup
 11 W. Bellevue Ave
 San Mateo, Calif.

Hobo Campground at Miracle Hot Springs. It is accessible via Highway 168 from Bakersfield toward Lake Isabella; halfway up the canyon take the old road (Kern River Canyon Road); the campground and springs are on the left. A one-eighth mile hiking trail leads west from the campground to the springs.

The illustrated 1939 postal cover has a nice Hobo Hot Springs, Calif. hand-stamp postmark. A rubber-stamped cachet is in the upper left, in faint plum-purple ink. It was applied either by the post office, or the hotel. It pictures a hobo seated by a campfire. He has his left arm and index finger raised, and is saying "Ho, 'Bo!", below is Hobo Hot Springs, California.

WELL, I'VE SLEPT IN EVERY WOOD, COPSE
 AND SPINNEY FOR TEN MILES ROUND—BUT
 I CAN'T SAY AS I'VE BEEN INTRODOOCED!



A "copse" (coppice) is a woods of small trees grown for periodical cutting (such as a Christmas tree farm). A "spinney" is a small group of trees with undergrowth.

Hobo Glossary...

continued from page 9

Gila - monster route - Part of the Southern Pacific running through Maricopa County, Arizona desert.

Gink - Poor unfortunate.

Glim - A match or light.

Glims - Spectacles.

Glom - Catch or hang on.

Goabouts - Tramps.

Going on the farm - Going on a side track.

Gondola - Freight car with no top that bottom dumps. i.e., Coal or material hoppers.

Gooseberrying - Stealing clothes from a clothesline.

Graveyard - Hash.

Growler - Can of beer.

Gump - A chicken.

Gunnels -

Iron truss rods under a freight or passenger car.

Gunsel, guntzel, gunsi - A boy tramp. Usually traveling alone.

Guts - Meat, usually sausage. Courage, fortitude.

Ham - To walk about the country.

Handout - Food handed to a Hobo out the kitchen door.

Harness bull - Uniformed policeman.

Harvest stiff - A migratory worker in the wheat fields.

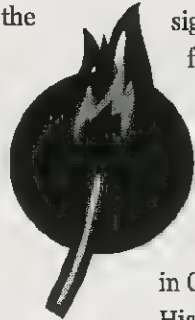
Hay bag - A woman on the road.

Headlights - Eggs.

Herring Choker - A sardine packer.

A derogatory term for a Nova Scotian.

Highball - The



signal to start the train. To move fast.

High fence - A mans white collar.

Hijacker - A tramp who robs Hoboes.

Hiker - Town marshal or cop.

Hinkydinks - A famous flophouse in Chicago.

His nibs - Police court judge.

Hit the grit - Jump off a moving train.

Hitting the grit - Walking along the tracks.

Hog - Locomotive.

Hogger - The engineer.

Hogleg - Pistol.

Home guard - Native. Non migratory worker.

Hoop chiseler - Peddler of worthless rings and watches.

Hoosiers - Farmers and villagers.

Hooty - Angry.

Horstile - Hostile, Unfriendly.

Hot-box - A journal box that is hot enough to be smoking.

Hot shot - Fast freight.

Hostler - One who takes care of horses.

Hundred on a plate - Baked beans.

Hustle buggy - Police vehicle.

Hump - Mountain.

Iron man - Silver dollar.

IWW - Industrial Workers of the World Union.

Jack - Money.

Jackroller - One who robs other Hoboes or tramps.

Java - Coffee.

Javvy - Java

Jerries - Section hands.

Jerry Gang - A crew of section hands.

Jiggers - Pretend affliction. Used to elicit sympathy while begging.

Jim Hill - Owner of the Great Northern Railroad.

Jim Hill Wagon - Freight car or train

Jitney - Five-cent piece.

Jocker - A Tramp who has boys do his begging.

John - A Hobo.

John Hallow Legs - Hungry stiff.

Johnny O'Brien - Boxcar.

Join out - To hire out. In order to get transportation.

Jolt - Jail sentence.

Jumble joo - Yegg term for decking or riding the top of a train.

Jungle - Hobo camp. Usually near the tracks and water.

Jungle buzzard - One who eats the food left in the jungles or begs from the hoboes.

Keister - Suitcase.

Kelly stick - A device used while boiling up. Usually a tin can, with punched holes, nailed on a stick and used to agitate wash water. One who eats the food left begs from the

hoboes.

Kick - The hip pocket. The backside.

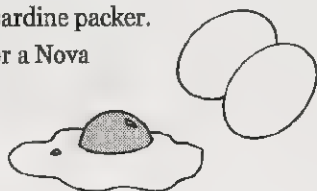
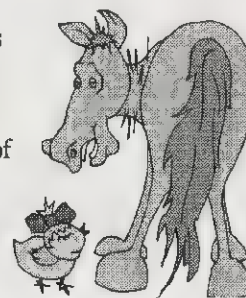
Kicks - Shoes.

Kip - Sleep.

Knowledge box - Schoolhouse.

Knobbead - A mule.

Ky wah - Pitchman selling watches, jewelry, novelties, etc.



A HOBO'S GUIDE TO LIFE

By Ray Flanigan

Don't interfere with something that
ain't botherin' you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the
outcome of a rain dance.

The easiest way to eat crow is while
it's still warm. The colder it gets,
the harder it is to swallow.

If you find yourself in a hole,
the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

If it don't seem like it's worth
the effort, it probably ain't.

It don't take a genius to spot a
goat in a flock of sheep.

The biggest troublemaker you'll
probably ever have to deal
with watches you shave his face
in the mirror every morning.

Never ask a barber if you
need a haircut.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person
of some influence, try
orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Don't worry about bitin' off more'n
you can chew; your mouth
is probably a whole lot
bigger'n you think.

Always drink upstream
from the herd.

Generally, you ain't learnin' nothing
when your mouth's a-jawin'.

Tellin' a man to git lost and
makin' him do it are two entirely
different propositions.

Good judgment comes from
experience, and a lotta that
comes from bad judgment.

When you give a personal lesson
in meanness to a critter or to
a person, don't be surprised if
they learn their lesson.

When you're throwin' your weight
around, be ready to have it
thrown around by somebody else.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole
lot easier than puttin' it back.

Always take a good look at what
you're about to eat. It's not
so important to know what it is, but
it's sure crucial to know
what it was.

The quickest way to double your
money is to fold it over and
put it back into your pocket.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

Answers to Word Jumble on page 6

LARVA
CLOVE
TANGLE
IMPEND

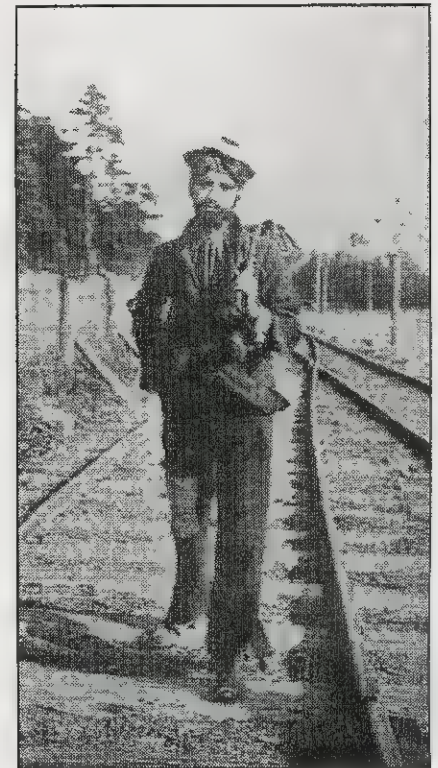
"THEY TRAMP ALONG"

Case Of The Missing Potato

A hobo at a hobo jungle (where ev-
eryone shares everything) had 17 pota-
toes. There were two of his good knight-
of-the-road friends there with him, and
he wanted to share half of what he had
with them.

He decided to keep half of them, give
the better friend $1/3$, and the other
friend $1/9$ th. However, as 17 is not di-
visible by $1/2$, $1/3$ or $1/9$, he was in a
predicament.

Finally, another "bo" at the jungle
solved his problem and gave him a po-
tato to make 18. Therefore, the first
hobo kept half (9), gave his first friend
 $1/3$ (6) and the second friend $1/9$ (2). $9 + 6 + 2 = 17$. Where'd the other potato
go?!



THE SIMPLE LIFE

1998 HOBO NICKEL TOKENS NOW AVAILABLE!!

We have just received the latest in the series of OHNS Tokens made for the club by Ron Landis, of The Gallery Mint.

As you can see, Ron has the OHNS mascot "Nick" on the obverse of the new token and the old locomotive reverse. NEAT!!

You may order immediately (\$10.00 each) from Gail "Bo-ette" Baker, P.O. Box 38669, Colorado Springs, CO 80937.

See elsewhere for tokens that are still available from previous years... Be sure your set is complete!



Gail says she still has the following material ready to ship to any member who hasn't ordered yet. If you don't have both of Del's books, get 'em! Also, the hobo tokens by Ron Landis are **great additions to your collection... take advantage of their availability now and get a complete set. Another one is coming out later this year!**

*Del Romines' first Hobo Nickel Book	\$25.00
*Del Romines' second Hobo Nickel Book	25.00
*OIINS T-shirt with IIobo 5 on front (Large or Med.)	10.00
*OHNS T-shirt with Hobo 5 on front & back (Diff.) (Lg.)	15.00
*1992 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Hobo obv/Buf. Rev)	10.00
*1993 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Clown/Bufalo)	10.00
*1994 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Baseball Cap/Bufalo)	10.00
(1995 Tokens [Train] are sold out)	
1996 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Pirate/Bufalo)	10.00
# one of these FREE with the order of one of Del's books	

Photos of the available tokens are shown here to entice you!

AVAILABLE HOBO TOKENS



1992



Common Reverse
on all tokens



1993



1994



1996

*Back issues of BO TALES and Auction catalogues with prices realized are also available to members - write Gail ("Bo-ette") to ask what is available. BO TALES issues are \$3.50 ea. and Auction Catalogues are \$4.00 ea.

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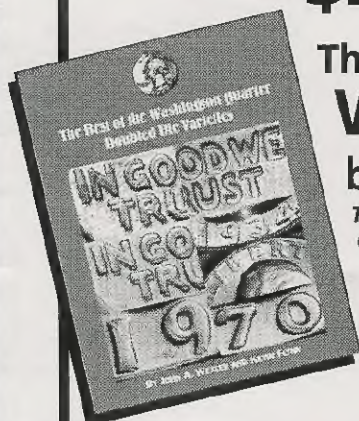
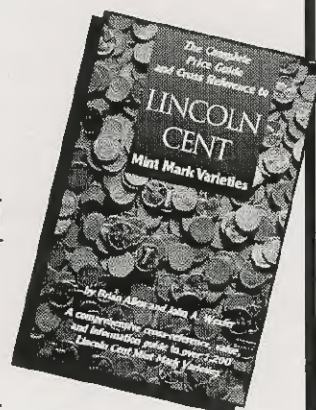
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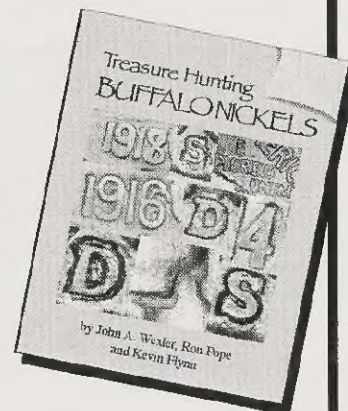
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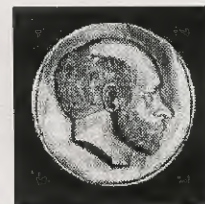
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Bill Fivaz
P.O. Box 888660
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

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